

about passing that legislation in a bipartisan fashion. The 9/11 Commission report has now been on our desks for many weeks now.

Can the leader inform us of where that legislation currently stands?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding to me. The committees have been working, and many committees have been working in a bipartisan way. I think a bill will be introduced in the next day or two, possibly tomorrow; and the committees have been instructed to mark up that bill, and I think that bill covers 12 different committees. Next week, and we hope to have the final product ready to come to the floor either by the end of next week or the following.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the information.

I have not talked to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN) or the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), and I see the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is on the floor, about the substance of the proposal; but I will certainly discuss it with them. I hope they have been included in these deliberations of a bill that may be introduced because if they have, I think it would make it easier for us to get it passed in a bipartisan fashion in a very efficient and speedy way.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further inquiries as to the schedule, and I appreciate the leader's engaging in somewhat the colloquy about the transportation bill, which we feel very keenly about. I hope that we can speed that bill as quickly as possible. I thank the leader for his comments.

HOURLY MEETING ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2004, AND ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2004, TO TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2004

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. tomorrow; and, further, that when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 on Tuesday, September 28, 2004, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 795) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 795

Resolved, That the following Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Financial Services: Mr. Gerlach.

Committee on Government Reform: Mr. Burgess.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1501

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1501.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 23, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have had the great privilege and honor of representing the people of the 14th Congressional District of Florida through eight elections. My service in the U.S. Congress has been a truly rewarding experience, and I thank my constituents for putting their trust and faith in me. The relationships I have developed over the years in the House will be ones I will treasure as I move to a new stage in my career.

Tomorrow I will be sworn in by the President of the United States as Director of Central Intelligence. It will definitely be a challenging job and I look forward to continue to working with you on the Intelligence issues facing our country.

Effective close of business today, September 23, 2004, I will resign my seat as the Representative of the 14th district of Florida in the U.S. House of Representatives. I have written to the Governor of Florida to advise him of my decision.

Kindest regards,

PORTER GOSS,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 23, 2004.

Hon. JEB BUSH,
Governor, State of Florida,
The Capitol, Tallahassee, FL.

DEAR GOVERNOR: I have had the great privilege and honor of representing the people of the 14th Congressional District of Florida through eight elections. My service in the U.S. Congress has been a truly rewarding experience, and I thank my constituents for putting their trust and faith in me. The relationships I have developed over the years serving Florida will be ones I will treasure as I move to a new stage in my career.

Tomorrow I will be sworn in by the President of the United States as Director of Central Intelligence. It will definitely be a challenge and I am truly honored the President has faith in me to do the job.

Please accept this letter as my resignation from the office of Representative of the 14th District of Florida to be effective close of business today, September 23, 2004. At the time of my resignation, the Clerk of the House will take over the offices of the 14th Congressional District. The Clerk will retain my staff so the constituents will continue to be served until the end of my term.

Kindest regards,

PORTER GOSS,
Member of Congress.

□ 1945

APPOINT HOUSE DEFENSE CONFEREES

(Mr. SKELTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I have a concern, it is a deep concern, dealing with the conference between the House and the Senate on the defense bill. You see, immediately upon passage of the bill in the Senate, the conferees were appointed. We passed our bill here in the House a good number of months ago, and, as of yet, we have had no official conferees appointed to meet with the Senate.

Despite that, we are holding informal panel discussions with the Senate trying to resolve a number of issues, but it would certainly help for us to be legal and have the conferees appointed so we can stand in the shoes of the House of Representatives properly.

I have had no explanation from anyone regarding this. It is something I do not understand, and I am not by myself. Others do not understand it.

I would like very much for the appointment of the conferees to come just as quick as possible, so we can officially act and officially make decisions on behalf of the House regarding national security.

STICKING IT TO WORKING FAMILIES

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the columnist Tom Oliphant wrote yesterday in the Boston Globe a column entitled